



Gay International Organization  
Symbol of Acceptance

# Handbook

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## **1. Purpose**

Gay International Organization Organization (GIO) has evolved over the years into one of the premier gay competitions in America. It is now owned and produced by Nu Tainment, LLC. It encompasses the motto of Nu Tainment, LLC which is to embolden and enhance the values of LGBTQIA+ culture through education, empowerment and encouragement throughout the world and international community.

## **2. Scope**

The Gay International handbook includes information concerning promoters, former titleholders, judges, the reigning Gay International titleholders and all its affiliates. The information should be used as a guideline to handle any issue that may arise, produce a stellar preliminary that the Gay International brand is known for and instruct a reigning titleholder how to be the Symbol of Acceptance that Gay International has been established to be.

## **3. Handbook Summary of Requirements**

### **3.1. Gay International Job Summary**

The primary function of the Gay International titleholders is to positively promote the official Gay International organization and contest. The Gay International titleholders are expected to behave in a professional manner both onstage and offstage and to uphold the tradition of being the “Symbol of Acceptance”. The responsibilities of the titleholders of Gay International winners are equivalent to a full-time commitment, although paid at the time of performing services at events. It is understood that Gay International should make the job of promoting, educating and entertaining a priority. All other opportunities for employment, whether now held or hereafter acquired, is subordinate to the job functions and job description of the Gay International titleholders. It should be noted that the expectations noted herein applies to all State, Regional, National and International titleholders of the Gay International system.

### **General Rules and Regulations of the Gay International System**

- The Gay International titleholders will uphold and enforce all rules and regulations of the official Gay International contest and its preliminaries to the best of their ability.
- The Gay International titleholders will review and become familiar with all rules and regulations of the Gay International system.
- The handbook will always be a work in progress which keeps up with the changing society. It includes, but not limited too, all the rules and regulations of the Gay International system. From time to time, a judgment call regarding a “gray area” may be required. However, the office of Nu Tainment, LLC must be advised of all happenings either those addressed in the handbook or considered to be a “gray area” that warrants a judgment call.

### **No Smoking**

- At no time while representing the title should the reigning Gay International titleholders smoke during appearances nor in public while promoting GIO.
- If smoking is absolutely necessary, the reigning titleholders of Gay International should smoke in the privacy of a dressing room, if allowed, or in an area away from the general public.

- Reigning Gay International titleholders should never smoke while wearing the crown, medallion, scepter and stole.

### Attire/Personal Appearance

- The appearance of Gay International titleholders shall be professional at all times. The appearance should be nothing short of “excellence” at all times. GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to determine what is acceptable attire.
- Dress at the preliminaries should be professional including Registration and Interview. Apparel for Registration and Interview is expected to be business casual, at minimum, regardless of the circumstance. The wardrobe should be professional and neat. The official Gay International lapel pin, provided by Nu Tainment, LLC, should be worn during any official appearance of Gay International.
- Apparel for performances, observing the contest competition and mingling should be dress to impress. Since the Gay International titleholders is deemed the “best of the best,” your wardrobe should reflect that prestige.
- Wardrobe malfunction is unacceptable. The Gay International titleholders should be certain that there is sufficient time to prepare for an appearance in public and should not have any wardrobe malfunctions. This includes, but not limited too, scuffed shoes, wrinkled garments, tears in costumes, incomplete dress or iron stains. GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to declare what is inappropriate and unacceptable.
- Tattoos should be approved by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. Inappropriate tattoos may need to be covered.
- Gay International is expected to arrive at each event/preliminary contest in business casual attire.

### The Crown, Medallion, Scepter, Label Pin and Stole

- The, crown, medallion, scepter, label pin and stole, should be held in the highest regard at all times.
- While traveling, Gay International should ensure that a protective carrying case is used which will ensure the crown, medallion, scepter label pin and stole, is not damaged.
- The crown, medallion, scepter label pin and stole, should be kept clean and in good condition throughout the reign. If it is damaged or lost, it must be reported to GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC immediately.
- The crown, medallion, scepter and stole should be worn during the majority of public appearances including but not limited to a ballad performance, mingling in the crowd, arrival into the facility and observing the contest. You may substitute wearing the crown, medallion, scepter and stole for the lapel pin at any event except for crowning number.
- The crown, medallion, scepter and stole or lapel pin should be worn when making an entrance into any facility when you are operating in an official Gay International (GIO) capacity.

### Travel Accommodations

- The Gay International titleholders is responsible for arranging all travel accommodations with promoters and others desiring their appearances.
- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC will have final authority to approve or disapprove certain appearances or the schedule of a preliminary contest during the current reign of the Gay International titleholders. Note: Current reign is defined as the moment of coronation to the coronation of the

next Gay International event.

- The Gay International titleholders is required to advise GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC of the appearance/booking schedule that is not an official Gay International sanctioned event. It is preferred that this is done one month in advance.

### Appearance Fees

- The Gay International titleholders shall be required to attend all direct preliminaries to the Gay International contest. (There are no excused absences)
- Appearance compensation for Gay International titleholders is \$300 for single-day competitions and \$250 for multi-day contests on final night. Other evenings of the preliminary including Revue Show and Preliminary Competition shall be negotiable between the promoter and GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. A minimum of \$150 per night is suggested. GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to settle any disagreement of appearance compensation between the promoter and the Gay International titleholders.
- The appearance and fees of Gay International titleholders in any official capacity should always be discussed with the CEO and Board of Directors of Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO to ensure that it is in their best interest and does not conflict with any legalities with the business.

### Compensation

Gay International winners shall receive, from Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO the cash sum of \$10,000 payable as follows contingent on the job performance throughout the year (this does not include other prizes that may be provided):

- \$2,500.00 shall be paid after the coronation and at the signing of the contract between Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO and the newly named Gay International title. This payment will be made by business check.
- \$500.00 per month for 11 months (starting approx. thirty days after the coronation). This amount may be reduced if job performance is subpar at increments of \$50 per infraction.
- \$2,000.00 on the final night of the next Gay International contest. This is the compensation for appearing during the week of Gay International the following year.
- Reasonable “photographer sitting fees” for the official Gay International photos shall be provided by Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO/MLM Images. The sitting fee must be approved and not to exceed \$350.00.
- Travel accommodations for titleholders for the next Gay International contest will be paid by Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO and should not exceed \$900.00 including airfare and hotel.
- Gay International winners will also receive various physical prizes from GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC including two Gay International lapel pins and the Gay International Crown, medallion, scepter and stole (all of which is valued to be approximately \$1500).
- It should be noted that Nu Tainment, LLC will provide a 1099MISC form to the titleholders for IRS reporting purposes.
- Depending on the performance of the titleholders during the reign, a bonus will be considered up to an additional \$500.00 on final night. These bonuses will be discussed during orientation.
- Prizes for remaining four alternate placements is as follows (distribution in the form of a business check):
  - First Alternate-\$1200
  - Second Alternate-\$600

- Third Alternate-\$200
- Fourth Alternate-\$200

### Communication

- Gay International titleholders are expected to communicate with GIO regarding any and all issues associated with the Gay International contest and its preliminaries. Communication is expected to be timely. Timely is defined not more than 24 hours following an issue that should be discussed with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to determine issues that should be discussed in a “timely” manner.
- Gay International titleholders are expected to carry a cellular telephone in order to be accessible to the International Office.
- Gay International titleholders are expected to have internet access and be computer literate in order to efficiently communicate with Gay International, its preliminary promoters, contestants, and audience.
- Gay International is prohibited from speaking on a cellular phone during phases of competition. If it is necessary to speak, they should leave the public’s view to handle said business.
- Gay International is prohibited from sending text messages during ANY actual competition phase of the contest competition.

### General Accountability and Morale

- No affiliate of Nu Tainment, LLC or the Gay International system will demean the Gay International system or the title of Gay International.
- As titleholders, expectations are deemed important to represent the International Symbol of Acceptance. They are, but not limited to:
  - Never cause substantial problems for the Gay International promoters or those who desire your presence as the titleholders.
  - Try to solve any problems with the official titleholders, regional and/or state promoter(s) in a peaceful manner and in good faith. Issues can be mediated through GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC or the National Board of Directors. All complaints must be documented in written (typed) format for an official mediation from GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC.
  - Never commit or insinuate acts of a violent nature.
  - Do not use illegal drugs.
  - Do not to commit acts of stealing.
  - Never participate in malicious gossip, dissemination of rumors or continuation of public discussion of issues that tend to encourage public discourse.
  - Attend and participate in all the Gay International preliminary contests.

### Reputation and Privacy Clause

The reputation of any Gay International, past, present, or future is expected to be nothing less than positive. The positive reputation requirement applies to both the onstage persona and offstage persona. Additionally, after the conclusion of the reign, GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of titleholders’ reputation and likewise make decision of future involvement in the Gay International contest system, based on reputation.

- Negative reputation will result in sanctions from the International Office. Negative reputation of any current Gay International titleholders will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary

action up to the removal of title and all duties associated there unto.

- Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO shall be notified of all other employment (income streams) opportunities to the Gay International titleholders. This is to ensure there is no conflict of interest and that no other employment exists that would cast a negative reflection on the Gay International titleholders.
- From time to time, issues will be discussed between GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC and the Gay International titleholders. All conversations should be kept confidential. The Gay International titleholders shall assess whether certain information should be repeated. However, all comments from The Gay International titleholders should be made in the best interest of the contest, the International/National promoters and GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. After the reign has concluded, Gay International titleholders agree that information discussed between Nu Tainment, LLC / GIO and the Gay International titleholders will continue to remain confidential. Issues of confidentiality include, but are not limited too, financial situations, behavioral issues and various issues concerning all affiliated, past or present, with the Gay International contest system.

### Duties and Responsibilities of Gay International Titleholders

- Within thirty (30) days of assuming the title of Miss / Mr / Trans / Mx / Supreme / Plus Gay International, titleholders must provide a satisfactory publicity photograph with crown, medallion, scepter and stole for use by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC and the Regional and State promoters.
- Gay International titleholders agree to keep a valid telephone number in service during their entire reign. Telephone and service expense shall not be compensated by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC.
- The Gay International titleholders should remain free of public disgrace and conduct themselves within the highest professional standard while representing the brand during their reign.
- The Gay International titleholders shall return telephone calls and email correspondence in a timely manner. Note: Timely shall be defined as two (2) business days in this instance.
- The Gay International titleholders shall never become intoxicated while representing the title of Miss / Mr / Trans / Mx / Supreme / Plus Gay International. GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to determine what is excessive.
- The Gay International titleholders will be required to provide post contest reports to the International Office. The contest report must be submitted no later than 10 days after the particular preliminary has ended.
- Gay International titleholders will assist GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in the planning of the next Gay International contest when asked and needed.
- Gay International titleholders are expected to motivate contestants and increase the contestant base.
- The reputation of Gay International is expected to be positive, both onstage and offstage. Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to define negative reputation and remedy to cure negative reputation.
  - Gay International titleholders, as required by Nu Tainment, LLC and representing the titles of Gay International, are responsible to do the following:
  - Gay International titleholders will work with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in the creation, implementation, execution, and advertising of a “theme” for the Gay International contest.
  - Gay International titleholders will work with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in the soliciting and selling of advertisement for the Gay International souvenir program and/or the Gay International website.



- The titleholders will work with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in securing a location for the Gay International contest, if needed.
- The titleholders will work with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC to promote the Gay International contest.
- The titleholders will work with GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in any other aspect of the Gay International contest as determined by the Board of Directors.
- The titleholders are expected to assist in the selling of new preliminaries (franchises) during their reign in an effort to grow the Gay International system.
- The Gay International titleholders will be required to write an article to the monthly newsletter (Symbol of Acceptance) of the Gay International contest. The article shall be ready for publication no later than the 5th of each month prior to the date for which the article will be posted/published. (ex. October 5, 2023 will be the deadline for the article to be published on November 15, 2023)
- The Gay International titleholders are expected to show concern for the promoters, contestants and audience. This includes but not limited to frequently ask the contestants if their needs are met and if not, what can be done to correct it.
- The promoters should know that the Gay International titleholders are there to ensure that the contest is a smooth process for ALL involved. Gay International should constantly reassure the promoter that they are there to help in any way possible to ensure that their contest is smooth.
- The contestants should be consulted frequently throughout the preliminary competition to ensure their needs are met including issues that may occur with dressing rooms and other contest situations.
- Gay International should make a concerted effort to meet and greet the owners/management of the club/location of the contest. Gay International should also provide reasonable reassurance that they will do all that is possible to make their contest experience, a pleasant one.
- The Gay International titleholders should arrive early in order to meet and greet the audience. This will validate that the Gay International titleholders and its owners are accessible.
- Gay International titleholders are expected to be seated near the judges and observe as much of the contest as possible. This is crucial to be able to validate the judge's opinion and to monitor the contest for any irregularities including biased judge scores.
- The Gay International titleholders are required to be well versed on all rules and regulations of the Gay International contest system, including but not limited to information noted in the Handbook.
- Performance music of the Gay International titleholders shall be professionally mixed, if needed. The Gay International titleholders should not ask a DJ to blend one song into another. The performance music should already be customized to the desire of the titleholders. Performance music should be on a quality thumb drive and should clearly identify the name of the titleholders.
- The performances of Gay International titleholders should contain a variety of entertainment levels. Gay International titleholders should appear in a variety of costumes and outfits. Different looks are an important part of the entertainment value, especially to those contest supporters who frequent more than one preliminary contest during each contest season.
- The performances of Gay International titleholders should also include a variety performance types. Music selection, type of performance (ballad, dance, character illusion, drama, comedy etc.) and costuming should vary as much as possible (within the realm of talent of the reigning Gay International), to ensure the entertainment of those contest supporters who frequent more than one preliminary contest during each contest season.
- Gay International titleholders may find it necessary to withdraw certain entertainment performances when it is in the best interest of the contest including time constraints. However,

the “crown song” should never be withdrawn from the performance schedule.

- Gay International titleholders shall validate all scores at each preliminary. There will be no exceptions unless otherwise approved by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. Documentation of score validation should include signature on the preliminary score sheet calculations, the sub-master score sheets and the master score sheets. As part of the validation process, the Gay International should review the score sheets for errors/omissions, scoring irregularities among judges, biased scoring and appropriate scoring procedures etc. An electronic tabulation program may be used at each preliminary. However, any electronic tabulation program must be approved by the International Office of the Gay International contest system. The International Office has available upon request electronic tabulation programs that have been tested to ensure accuracy. It is the responsibility of the reigning Gay International titleholders to ensure that promoters/tabulators are using an “approved” electronic tabulation program. Otherwise, the manual tabulation process must be used.
- Gay International titleholders should ensure that the Score Sheet Instructions are followed completely. There are absolutely no exceptions.
- Gay International titleholders shall arrive at each preliminary to supervise registration and to provide a complete and thorough orientation to the contestants (regardless of how many times a particular contestant has competed in the Gay International system). The orientation should include a detail of category descriptions, scoring procedures, critique, helpful hints to the contestants and other standard Gay International contest details.
- Gay International titleholders shall also provide a complete and thorough orientation to the panel of judges (regardless of how many times a particular judge has adjudicated within the Gay International system). The orientation should include details of the contest schedule, category descriptions, scoring procedures, Judge’s etiquette, critique and other standard Gay International contest details.
- The Gay International titleholders are required to observe the Interview category. Any inappropriate comments or questions by the judges should immediately be rescinded with no penalty to the contestant.
- The reigning Gay International titleholders must ensure that the contestants receive a fair adjudication process. All preliminary contest processes and procedures must be monitored by the reigning Gay International titleholders to ensure that contestants are receiving an equal and unbiased adjudication process.
- Gay International titleholders are expected to ensure that critiques flow in a smooth manner. It is recommended that critiques do not exceed 10 minutes in length. The amount of critique time should be constant for all contestants except the winner and first alternate of the contest. Judges, at their discretion, may wish to spend more time in critiques to better prepare the winner and first alternate for the national competition.
- The Gay International titleholders are required to observe the Judges Critique Session. The opinion of Gay International titleholders should be heard, when necessary, but not to the extent of being rudely or offensively contradictory to the opinion of the judges. The primary focus of the critique is so that the opinion of the judges will be heard since they have been selected to adjudicate that particular preliminary contest. The Gay International titleholders are expected to remain in professional attire during critique. There should be no delay in the commencement of the critique process due to Gay International titleholders changing clothing or removing makeup. Gay International titleholders are expected to ensure that all appropriate persons (judges, contestants and promoters) are immediately assembled to immediately begin the critique process.
- Gay International titleholders should monitor the behavior of the judges and immediately resolve any issues that are contrary to the details in the Judges Etiquette Information section of

- the Handbook or that which is of common and acceptable behavior.
- Gay International titleholders should ensure that the promoter has posted the Master Score Sheet in the dressing room, immediately following the contest. An alternative to posting the score sheet in the dressing room would be that every contestant receives a copy of the Master Score Sheet, immediately following the contest.
  - Gay International titleholders will be required to sit near the panel of judges and observe all phases of competition to verify the scores. Additionally, Gay International titleholders will verify the scores by retaliation to ensure no scoring errors. There should be ample time for Gay International titleholders to verify the scores and get ready for his “crowning” song performance.
  - The Gay International titleholder may declare an intermission during the preliminary competition if needed. Reasons an intermission may be needed include contestants feeling rushed or there are issues that require greater than normal attention to detail.
  - The first introduction of Gay International official titleholders at official preliminaries should be at the beginning of the competition. Titleholders shall speak on the microphone at this point. The message to the audience should include a welcome, thank you to the club/facility for hosting the location, advertisement of the [www.gayinternational.org](http://www.gayinternational.org) website and announcement of the national Gay International contest (date and location).
  - Gay International titleholders are required to attend each preliminary contest with a copy of the Handbook and extra score sheets.
  - Gay International titleholders should always carry promotional photos to autograph photos as requested. This is an exceptional marketing tool for both the Gay International contest and the reigning Gay International titleholders.
  - Consuming alcoholic beverages is allowed but not to the point of intoxication.

### Conflict of Interest

- Gay International titleholders shall not enter other competitions of any kind until their reign as Gay International has concluded. All preliminary title holders are permitted to hold bar and regional titles as long as no conflicts to duties are presented.
- Gay International titleholders are prohibited from stating intention of entering other competitions until the conclusion of their reign.
- Newly crowned Gay International titleholders shall resign from all other titles currently held (outside the Gay International contest system), unless otherwise approved by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC.
- Gay International titleholders shall not place themselves in any position that would cause controversy on their loyalty to their title. This includes, but not limited too, promoting for another system, joining another system’s board or choosing to be an emeritus during their reign.

### Official Promotional Photos

- Nu Tainment LLC must approve the “sitting fee” compensation PRIOR to agreement with the photographer.
- Within 30 days after being crowned, Gay International titleholders will have official promotional photographs taken whereby GIO/Nu Tainment LLC reserves full rights to deem a certain photograph as the “The Official Gay International titleholders” photo.
- Gay International titleholders shall not use any other photos, as promotional photos, unless approved, in advance, by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC.
- GIO/Nu Tainment LLC shall approve, in advance of the photo session, the photographer used.

- Proofs of the sitting fee should be submitted to GIO no later than 45 days after the crowning of Gay International titleholders.
- All original expenses relating to the cost of reproduction of the official promotional photographs, will be paid by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, as Nu Tainment LLC and the Gay International contest will be the “owners” of the copyright to the photos made in photo session. Subsequently, duplication expenses relative to the official promotional photographs shall be that of the Gay International titleholders and not GIO/Nu Tainment LLC.
- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC will deem, at minimum, two photographs as the official Gay International photos. In order for a certain photo to be deemed the official Gay International photo, the reigning Gay International titleholders must wear the Gay International crown, medallion, scepter and stole in a formal wear unless otherwise approved by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC. One headshot, head and eyes forward, and one upper body or full body picture will be needed. These photos will be used for advertising preliminaries.
- Photos presented for consideration shall include both a solid black, white and grey background unless otherwise approved by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC.
- A different photo will be placed on the Gay International website each month. Therefore, there should be sufficient quality photos included in the proof furnished to GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, for selection of use on the website home page and the Gay International titleholders gallery. At least 12 different looks and poses should be available.
- Before the photo session occurs, the titleholders and the photographer should consult with GIO/Nu Tainment LLC for other specific photo requirements.
- GIO/Nu Tainment LLC. reserves the right to require a “mid-reign” photo session. If another session is required, it will be at the expense of Nu Tainment, LLC unless the titleholders did not provide ample selections during the first shoot. If there was a lack of photos during original shoot, it will then be the responsibility of the reigning to fund the next session.
- The titleholders shall not schedule any other photo-sessions without advance consent from GIO/Nu Tainment LLC.
- For more information, relative to the official photograph requirements, please refer to the “Gay International Official Photograph Requirement Publication.”

### Advertisement

Gay International titleholders are expected to acquire approval from GIO /Nu Tainment LLC regarding all forms of advertisement of character including, but not limited too, website advertisements, interviews and other media advertisement.

### Advisory Board of Directors

At the conclusion of the reign, the Gay International titleholders, unless otherwise stated by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, will serve on the Advisory Board of Directors of the Gay International contest system. Service on the Board might include judging, entertaining or making appearances as the official representative of the Gay International pageantry system.

### Revocation of Title and Crown, Medallion, Scepter and Stole

There will be several opportunities to correct any offense that would deem it necessary to revoke the titleholders title.

- First, a verbal warning will be issued by the CEO of Nu Tainment, LLC.

- Second warning will be an official typed complaint to the titleholders from the Executive Board of Gay International.
- Third warning will be an official meeting between the Board of Directors, CEO of Nu Tainment, LLC and the Gay International titleholders.
- Both sides will have an opportunity to plead their case.
- Upon final discussion, the GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC Board of Directors will send a letter of intent to the Gay International titleholders within seven business days.
- It should be noted, that in the event that the revocation of the title occurs, the unpaid cash stream will immediately cease, and The Gay International titleholders will not receive any other monies from Nu Tainment LLC.
- Should GIO deem necessary to remove the title, the International Office may or may not recognize the winner of Gay International. Depending on this judgment, the Gay International titleholder, for all intent and purposes, will not be recognized in the recorded history on the Gay International website or any other publication about the Gay International contest.
- If revocation of the Gay International title occurs, the Gay International titleholder will be required to reimburse Nu Tainment LLC, the entire amount of “prize package money” paid to the Gay International titleholders reign to date. Additionally, the entire “material prize package” must be reimbursed to Nu Tainment LLC. Reign to date is defined as the time between the moment of coronation and the actual time of title revocation. “Material prize package” includes the official Gay International crown, medallion, scepter and stole, jewelry and any other physical prize received as a result of coronation as Gay International.

### **3.2. Gay International Entertainer/Emcee Regulations**

As the Gay International contest system is known to be the best of the best, the audience has a very high expectation of appropriate behavior when emcees and entertainers are acting in official capacity to the Gay International contest system. Minimum guidelines have been established to help meet expectations. The compliance with below noted guidelines will not only maintain the reputation that the Gay International contest is not typical competition but, will also make video production more appealing to the public.

The below guidelines include, but is not limited too, behavior deemed to be appropriate for the Gay International contest system.

- No profanity or vulgar language is allowed. This includes language while serving as emcee or verbiage in performance music mixes. This includes vulgar actions/gestures.
- Only water or soft drinks should be consumed at the podium (no alcoholic beverages). Emcees should consume water during times when the video camera or spotlight is not focused on them which should enhance the overall quality of the video and audience perception of the quality/professionalism of the contest. Alcoholic beverages may be consumed in dressing area or away from the public.
- No smoking while at or near the podium or while serving as emcee.
- Illegal drug use is strictly prohibited.
- No food should be consumed while at or near the podium.
- At no point during the contest should an emcee or entertainer be intoxicated.
- Costuming should be appropriate for the Gay International system contest entertainment. Attire should not be too revealing and tasteful. This includes entertainers who might be a former titleholders in the Gay International pageantry system preliminary but now participates in another contest system.

- Tattoos must be reviewed by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC. Vulgar or inappropriate tattoos may need to be covered.
- The primary responsibility of the Emcee is to expedite the contest efficiently. Emcees should quickly progress the flow of the contest once they receive the “ready-signal” from the Lead Judge.
- Emcees should be provided appropriate announcements to read, during stall time (the “Emcee Book” will greatly enhance the quality of the emcee and will provide structure to the contest).
- Emcees should limit their stall time to exactly what is needed in order to progress the contest. Too much stall time will exceed the allotted time schedule for the contest.
- Entertainers and emcees should be punctual, as required by the promoter.
- Emcees should not distract judges from their job duties.
- Emcees should not use their microphone time as a platform to lecture, degrade, insult or offend audience members.
- Emcees should not comment on the presentation of the contestant during a particular category unless said comments are uniformly mentioned for all contestants. This will limit influence of the judge’s opinion (example: “that was HOT” or “that was an incredible talent”).
- Entertainers and Emcees should be prepared for their duties, well in advance of the schedule, including review of announcements to ensure understanding and pronunciation.
- Performance time limits shall be communicated by the promoter. Long mixes increase the duration of the contest and, in many cases, exceed time constraints.

### **3.3. Judges Regulations and General Information for Judges**

It is the responsibility of the promoter to ensure the most qualified and professional panel of judges. The promoter must ensure that the judges have the information contained within this manual well in advance of the contest to ensure the highest quality in judges. Additionally, promoters should present this and other pertinent contest information, including: 1) Category Descriptions 2) Proper Scoring Procedures 3) Scoresheet Instructions 4) Contest Schedule and 5) referral of articles including category descriptions. Additionally, the aforementioned should be reviewed in the mandatory pre-contest Judges Orientation session. The detailed Judges Orientation is a crucial part of the contest, as this helps to ensure contestants that only the highest quality of qualified judges are serving on the panel.

- There will be no talking to any of the contestants except for a simple greeting. Avoid contestant contact at hotel, bar, and /or restaurants.
- There will be no talking at the judge’s table among judges or to anyone around the table. Questions, after a contestant’s performance (not during), should be directed to the Lead Judge, unless otherwise instructed. A thorough judge’s orientation will alleviate all or most questions.
- There should be no comments made by any of the judges concerning a particular contestant during or after a particular judging section (i.e. “that was a great interview”).
- There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages at the judge’s table during judging or any other time prior to or during competition categories. Judges will not become intoxicated during the course of the contest. This includes having an alcoholic beverage, prior to the contest and/or during break from judging duties, during the contest. Remember, contestants are watching you as much as you are watching them.
- Smoking is prohibited at the Judge table (at any time during the contest).
- From time to time, promoters furnish snacks to the judges, however, judges are prohibited from eating during a contestant’s category.
- Do not applaud or overreact to any contestant’s presentation.
- Focus your complete attention on each contestant during each category. A judge should not

“take his eyes off of” the performance of the contestant during Presentation or Talent Categories. Notes may be written on the worksheet but do not look away from the contestant during categories.

- A judge’s valet should be appointed by the contest promoter to care for the judge’s needs. Promoters, valets, and other persons are never to interrupt the judge’s concentration while a contestant is being judged.
- Tardiness will run the schedule over the allotted time limits. Please be on time for every judged event.
- Do not discuss your scoring with anyone except the promoter, reigning Gay International, or an official representative of GIO/Nu Tainment LLC. Questions should be answered by the aforementioned only.
- At no time will judges be allowed in a contestant’s hotel room or vice versa.
- Keep your questions simple and to the point during interviews. You are there to hear his interview. Promoters are encouraged to review some of the planned questions.
- All judges are required to stay at least one (1) hour after the contest ends for contestant’s critique. The critique is designed to advise the contestant of improvements needed and to acknowledge strong points of the contestant’s package.
- A judge will not be allowed to judge either National, State or Regional contest for two consecutive years. The only exception is in a closed state contest, formers of that particular closed state title can judge consecutive years.
- A judge may adjudicate no more than two (2) state and no more than two (2) regional contests during a calendar year. Exceptions are limited to former Gay International Titleholders and the Gay International Advisory Board, all of which have unlimited judging opportunity, unless otherwise declared by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC.
- The appearance of the judges must be professional at all times during the competition. Judges should be dressed in “business casual” (no t-shirts, shorts, jeans or tennis shoes) at minimum. Promoters may wish to require formal or “dress to impress” attire on the final night of competition.
- The official representative of GIO/Nu Tainment LLC has the authority to question any judge who violates these rules and relieve a judge of his/her duty after careful scrutiny of a rule infraction. The entire score sheet of every category may be removed for the judge in question. However, clear communication must occur between the representative of GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, the promoter and the judge. Should a judge be disqualified during competition, scores of the disqualified judge will not be included in the total cumulative score of the contestants. The total cumulative score shall be the scores from the remaining panel of judges. Likewise, the disqualified judge will not be allowed to participate in the critique session.
- GIO/Nu Tainment LLC reserves the right to refuse a certain judge for any preliminary to the Gay International system. Promoters should ensure the highest quality and most qualified panel of judges.
- As there are restrictions on frequency that an individual may judge preliminaries during a contest season, it remains the responsibility of the promoter to investigate the qualification of the panel of judges to ensure that the contestant is provided with the highest quality of qualified and professional panel of judges. Exception to the judging limitation is former Gay International Titleholders and the Gay International Advisory Board of Directors, who are unlimited in their judging opportunities. The office of GIO/Nu Tainment LLC may send a list of qualified judges who are available to adjudicate preliminaries, if requested.
- The contest promoter is responsible to ensure that the panel of judges is both responsible and eligible to judge. Promoters should make the selection of judges considering reputation, resume’ of qualifications and void of any potential conflict of interest. Potential conflict of

interests include, but is not limited to, partners/mates of contestants, current promoters of contestants (example: a promoter of a regional contest whereby a contestants may be the current titleholders), city preliminary promoters of that particular state contest or a contestant who has already qualified, or intends to qualify, for the Gay International contest, or any of its preliminaries, during that particular contest season.

- Any contestant who has qualified or has intention to qualify to any state or regional preliminary of Gay International (i.e. State/Regional contests or on the National level) may not judge any State or Regional preliminary contests, during the same contest season in which they intend to compete. This applies to any official preliminary, State and Regional, that is designated as a preliminary in the Gay International system. A contest who is a former “state titleholders” may judge a city preliminary for the state contest in which they are a former titleholders. Additionally, a city preliminary contestant may not judge another city preliminary contest during the same contest season year, for which he has intent to enter a state competition.
- Judges should use the Judges Worksheet to make notation of the contestant’s performance, and subcategory scoring. Then, once completed, the scores should be carried forward to the actual Score sheet which is submitted to the tabulator. The Judges Worksheet remains the property of the judge, for his reference during critique. Judges should notate positives and negatives, of the contestant’s performance in order to provide effective critique. The Judges Worksheet is subject to review by a contest official (Gay International, Nu Tainment LLC or Promoter) and should be readily available for review upon request.
- The identity of the judges will be kept confidential, prior to contest registration. That is, judges and promoters should not advertise, either in electronic, written or verbal communication, to any persons that they have been selected to judge a particular contest. This will minimize influence on judges.
- Judges should not be viewing message board chats/web sites concerning the contest, while the contest is in process (from beginning of contest to the conclusion of the contest).
- Administrative Point Deductions shall not be the responsibility of the panel of judges. The judges should score according to the category descriptions as applied to the contestant presentation for which they are currently reviewing.
- Judges may not text at the judges table or during any part of the category competition. Should a judge feel the need to text, it should be done once the entire category of competition has concluded whereby the judge should then leave the judge’s table.

### Panel of Judges

- A panel of judges should be competent and qualified to judge.
- A National, State or Regional contest should have not less than five (5) judges.
- A City Preliminary should have no less than three judges, although a panel of five (5) is preferred.
- Of the panel of judges, one judge must be designated as the Lead Judge. A Lead Judge is defined as the most qualified and experienced person to assume the role as supervisor of the panel of judges. While the promoter and Gay International titleholders are ultimately responsible for the conduct of the panel of judges, the Lead Judge shall be well versed on all of the rules and regulations of the contest system to ensure that the behavior of the panel of judges is acceptable. Additionally, the Lead Judge should be clearly aware of responsibilities including validating scoring corrections, being attentive to issues that warrant
- Administrative Point Deductions, to clearly communicate issues with contest officials, ensure that the other Judges have everything needed to conduct their duty as judge and to immediately communicate any issues of concern with contest officials.



## Critiques

Judge's critique will usually occur at the conclusion of the contest unless otherwise approved by the GIO. The Judges Critique session shall detail both positive and negative comments from each of the judges concerning each category. Negative critique is crucial to the future competition success of the contestant therefore the judges should be sure to detail any flaws with the competition package. In no instance, should a critique session become a praise session.

The Judges Worksheet, if used properly during the contest will prove to be a valuable instrument during the critique session. Judges should retain the Judges Worksheet in order to provide effective post contest critique. Since the Judge's Critique Session usually lasts not longer than 5 minutes, judges are urged to make themselves available for contact after the conclusion of the contest for additional counseling.

In order to expedite the critique process, if a judge has no additional comments to add to that already stated by another judging colleague, he/she should not "echo" comments already stated but rather defer comment until the next category critique.

The critique session shall be monitored by the promoter, or their official representative. In no way, shall a contestant be allowed to show disrespect to a judge. Violations of this issue will result in suspension on both the preliminary and the promoter for one competition season.

In general, the critique session should be held at the conclusion of the contest and shall not be longer than five (5) minutes per contestant. However, it is not limited to this time frame.

Contests with greater than ten (10) contestants may use the approved Critique Sheets in lieu of a critique session for all contestants. However, a "face-to-face" critique session immediately following the conclusion the contest must be available to the "finalist" contestants. In the event Critique Sheets are utilized, the judges should be urged to be available to the contestants upon request for a more detailed critique.

## Proper Scoring Procedures

Judges should be furnished with and advised of appropriate scoring procedures as detailed in the Promoter's Handbook.

## Explanation of Proper Scoring Procedures

As per the GIO/Nu Tainment LLC Rules and Regulations, all preliminaries must use the Gay International scoring system. This is the only scoring system allowed. There is to be no substitutions made to the scoring system, score sheets, or point values. Blank score sheets are available, via email, to approved preliminaries from Nu Tainment LLC.

The Judge's Worksheet should be completed with comments and scores (i.e., sub-category scores and total scores). The scores from the Worksheet should be transferred to the Score sheet; the scores noted on the Score sheet should mirror those noted on the Judges Worksheet.

## Corrections and Changes of Scoresheets

There are times when judges must correct or change a score. There is a correct and proper way to do this by fully documenting the need for the correction and the process used. All scoring should be done in ink only and not in pencil. All changes and/or corrections should have a single line put through the incorrect score or total. The incorrect score or total needs to be legible. The change or corrected total should be written above or below the previous score. The change should be initialed by the scoring judge, another judge on the panel, preferably the lead judge, or the reigning Gay International titleholder. All changes should be double initialed. Judges should always sign their score sheets and date them at the start of the contest. Tabulators making corrections to category totals should initial the correction and have the scoring judge, secondary tabulator and/or the reigning Gay International titleholder, to initial the correction. Scores should never be blocked out, scribbled out, whited out or written over, on a score sheet, Sub-Master Score Sheet or Master Score sheet, that is a simple line through the error will suffice. If the tabulator cannot understand the scores on the sheet, they should go to that judge and verify before computing on master score sheet.

## **3.4. Gay International Regulations**

### Administrative Point Deductions

- Administrative Point Deductions may only be issued by contest officials, the reigning Gay International titleholder or the Promoters.
- The lead judge should be attentive to issues that warrant Administrative Point Deductions and likewise inform contest officials, as necessary. However, judges should not administer deductions but rather adjudicate how such violation may affect the specific competition presentation according to the category descriptions and sub-category scoring.
- Administrative Point Deductions shall be administered in increments of .5-points per infraction and applied to the accumulative score of the contestants.
- Administrative Point Deductions earned during preliminary competition (including multi- day contests) shall carry forward into final night competition scores.

### Regulated infractions include but not limited to

- Exceeding allotted time for talent set-up and take down.
- Competition music submitted that is not appropriately labeled.
- Competition music that contains more than one track.
- National applications submitted incomplete and after the defined and published deadline.
- Direct violation of any category regulation (props, time) unless category descriptions define a greater penalty.
- Tardiness to any scheduled events of the contest including, but not limited to, roll call, registration, talent rehearsals and other meetings.
- Non-compliance with requirements for Presentation costume or Presentation Choreography.
- Excessive use of profanity. Note, if the language can be used on the radio or TV, it can be used in a talent. Please keep cognizant the audience and venue when choosing song selections.
- Non-compliance with dressing room policies and helper's protocols.
- Actions by contestants or their entourage that may be disruptive to the efficient flow of the contest.
- Non-compliance with directives given from Contest Officials including Contest Director, back-stage managers, sound-lighting technicians, etc...

- Complaints from host hotel management, including, but not limited to, noise disturbances, damage to property or disrespect to hotel staff.

\*\*Any conduct deemed as poor sportsmanship toward the contest, or another contestant will disqualify you from the competition. This includes social media shaming, verbal abuse, physical destruction, tampering with costumes or clothing, and found guilty of theft of any property.

\*\*\*Any display of intoxication or open use of drugs and/or the selling of illegal substances will disqualify you from the competition and authorities will be notified if needed.

### **3.5. Administrative Responsibilities of Gay International (and State Titleholders)**

- Gay International titleholders and representatives of the International Board will have full oversight and on the spot questioning of the Promoter(s) and Judges chosen for the preliminary contest.
- All questions and issues will be settled in an orderly fashion in the best interest of the preliminary as well as the International Contest.
- All parties, including the promoter and International Office, will be included on any communication regarding preliminary changes or contestant concerns.
- Gay International titleholders or a representative of the International Board may, at their discretion, disqualify a judge or contestant including disqualification of any score sheet that does not parallel the criteria used for judging or competing in any segment of competition.

### **3.6. Advisory Board**

- The GIO Advisory Board consists of the owner, Michael Lewis McBride, select professionals chosen by the owner, and a select group of former Gay International Titleholders.
- The role of the GIO Advisory Board is to ensure that the rules and regulations are adhered to and that each preliminary is conducted to be in the best interest of the GIO Contest System.
- First time promoters are required to use a current Advisory Board member as the lead judge. A former Gay International titleholder winner may be used with the approval of the GIO /International Office. Exceptions will be made during the growth of the contest.

### **3.7. Advertisement**

- Promoters, at their own expense, will provide ample advertising for their preliminary. Advertising includes printed advertisement, web advertisement and social media advertisements. Advertisement in the International souvenir book is strongly suggested.
- Advertisements of any kind must contain the Gay International Official logo found on the website.
- Ads must contain the national titleholders and the state titleholders as the focal emphasis of the ad. Gay International winners should receive top billing in National, State or regional ads.
- Promoters are required to submit a high-resolution image of their qualified contestants for promotional purposes. The titleholders should be eyes and face forward. The winner should also wear the crown, medallion, scepter and stole in the image.
- Under no circumstance should a crown, medallion, scepter and stole from another contest system be shown in a photo in any ad or program associated with GIO unless this is prior approval from GIO.
- A contestant holding a previous city, state or regional title with GIO and competing in the

current year as first alternate should not have a crown, medallion, scepter and stole on in their promotional picture for the program.

- All advertisements must be approved by the reigning Gay International titleholders or a member of the International Board before it is released.
- Ads for the National/ International souvenir book shall be received and paid for one month before the National contest. The price for all ads shall be released three months prior.

### **3.8. Applications for Contestants**

- Promoters should furnish an application package to the contestants.
- Contestant applications for City, State, and Regional contests must mirror the most recent application published from the National/ International office. If the national application is electronic you may use the most current printed version.
- Application package should include:
  - Presentation requirements (not to be judged at state, local or regional competitions)
  - Contestant regulations
  - Category descriptions
  - Any scheduling requirements for the registration of contestant
  - Prize package and disbursement for all placements
  - Dates and times of contest
  - All other “need to know” information
- Contestants should be familiar with the contest rules and regulations prior to competing.
- Current handbook will be available at [www.gayinternational.org](http://www.gayinternational.org)
- All applications should be submitted electronically. If there are any issues submitting them electronically, please contact the International Office or appropriate office for assistance.

### **3.9. Appointed Contestants**

- A preliminary may appoint a contestant that competed in a qualified contest but the winner could not or cannot fulfill their role to compete. At that time, the contestant in the next placement should be moved into the position vacated by the appointee.
- If a promoter has a contest and only one or two people show, they should continue to hold the contest and have the contestant(s) go through competing as though they were competing for the title.
- The owner and National/ International board can decide to fill available spots by appointing a contestant as a representative.
- If a promoter does not have a contestant present by the scheduled time of registration for the scheduled preliminary, they will cancel the preliminary. They will then speak to the GIO representative and contact the National/ International Office for possible appointees.
- GIO reserves the right to refuse appointees at any time.
- Once an appointee accepts the position, they are subject to all responsibilities and duties of the position in which they fill. Refusing any of these tasks will lead to the same repercussions as the original position states.

### **3.10. Categories of Competition**

- Promoters of Regional and State preliminaries are required to have all five categories of competition to better prepare the contestants for Nationals and ensure consistent scoring. Categories include Interview, Presentation (only judged at Nationals), Red Carpet Attire,

Talent, and On-stage Question.

- Presentation is optional at city preliminaries.
- In the event of a multi-day contest, Interview will be carried over to final night scores and all other categories will be judged and previous night scores dropped.
- Category details will be described later in handbook.

### **3.11. City Preliminary Contests**

- State promoters of closed state contests who hold city preliminaries must provide the following to the city promoters:
  - Promoter handbook
  - Franchise agreement
  - Rules of the City preliminary
  - Responsibilities of the titleholders (which should National Titleholders)
- Questions and concerns should be directed first to the State promoters before being presented to the National/ International office.

### **3.12. Social Media Policy**

- All involved with Gay International are expected to be respectful of the contest system including the GIO. All involved are responsible for their friends and family's interactions.
- Gay International titleholders represent the Symbol of Acceptance and everyone associated with the system should portray that acceptance by being respectful to everyone.
  - Avoid public rants
  - Avoid on-line bullying
  - Avoid causing unnecessary drama purposely
- Although personal social media outlets of its constituents are not policed, Gay International system expects all posts, comments and pictures to be professional and upstanding within the community.
- All action, commentary or acceptance of posts that are deemed prejudice, racist, or controversial will not be tolerated.
- Any actions deemed inappropriate and not in the standards of the Gay International brand will receive discipline actions up to disassociation with the Gay International system. Any monies paid to the National/ International Office will be deemed non-refundable under this action and any awards or positions given will be revoked. Anyone dissociated with the Gay International system will be banned and refused any participation with any of its affiliates.

### **3.13. Code of Conduct Standards for Titleholders, First Alternate Positions and Promoters**

- By entering any official preliminary of the Gay International contest system, all involved (e.g., contestants, Titleholders, dancers, dressers, judges, promoters, and formers) must agree to follow the Standards of Conduct within this handbook or any other communication sent from the International office.
- These standards include but not limited to:
  - Present yourself professionally both on-stage and off-stage.
  - Never demean the Gay International contest, National/ International Office, or City, State, or Regional Preliminary.
  - Never demean or disrespect another contest system or contestants.
  - Do not cause substantial problems for promoters or people who hire you to perform.

- Never become intoxicated while representing your respective title.
- Do not smoke while wearing your crown, medallion, scepter and stole and try to do this in a private place.
- Do not participate in any type of argument or altercation, except as a mediator, while representing your title.
- Attempt to solve problems with promoters, contestants, or Titleholders in a peaceful manner.
- Never lecture the audience.
- Provide quality entertainment that epitomizes the standards of the Gay International organization.
- The National/International Office has the right to discipline or revoke a promoter's franchise or the title of a Titleholders if the conduct does not meet the standard of the National/International Office. Any monies paid to the National/International Office shall be deemed non-refundable in the case of revocation.

### **3.14. Communication**

- All Promoters and Contestants shall have an email address as his/her/other primary source of communication.
- Promoters are required to communicate with the National/International Office electronically, including fliers, titleholders pictures, and dates.
- Promoters are responsible for making sure their contact information is up to date with the National/International Office. This can be done by contacting the National/International Office.
- Promoters shall make all arrangements with entertainers, judges, and venues in writing (email) so they have a communication trail. If the promoter makes business decisions over the phone, it shall be reiterated to that individual through email.
- Promoters and Gay International shall schedule a conference call at least two (2) weeks prior to a preliminary to review all pertinent checklist, judges, and any other information that may be helpful.
- Any communication concerns should immediately be brought to the attention of the National/International Office and/or reigning titleholders.

### **3.15. Compensation and Travel Arrangements for Gay International**

- The reigning Gay International must attend all days of the official direct (State or Regional) preliminary contest schedule (e.g., preliminary nights and final night in the case of multi-day contests). The preliminary contest promoters shall only be required to pay nights exempt of actual night of final competition.
- The compensation for State Titleholders (to attend City Preliminary Contests) are negotiable and should be defined in the City Preliminary Franchise Agreement by and between the State Promoter and City Preliminary Promoter. All fees and prizes should be clearly defined.
- Promoters are required to provide travel to and from their preliminaries (airfare or fuel expenses). Travel cost should include any reasonable bag fee expenses incurred by Gay International. Reasonable is one bag for a one-day event or two for a two-day event. If possible, we encourage promoters to book Southwest as two checked bags (up to 50 lbs. each) are free. All these fees are included in the America Standard.
- Suitable hotel accommodations (no less than three star) should be made unless Gay International approves other arrangements.
- All travel and performance fees should be discussed at least 4 weeks prior to the schedule

preliminary.

### **3.16. Competition Music and Video**

- Competition music/video shall be submitted in quality condition on a flash drive only. The promoter has the right to determine music/video format and shall do so in writing before the competition. Promoters can request music be sent electronically prior to competition. If this is requested, please bring a back-up copy for your protection. Each flash drive should be formatted as followed:
- Only competition music/video shall be on submitted flash drive
- Performance name, contestant number and category should be labeled on each number (e.g., Ray Lewis – Contestant 7 – Presentation)
- Administrative deductions will be applied for incorrect labels or failure to follow these instructions

### **3.17. Contracts for Preliminary Contest Titleholders**

- Promoters may require their Titleholders to sign a contract. However, it may not exceed the requirements of the Gay International job description.
- Job descriptions should be made available to all contestants with their applications.

### **3.18. Contest Scores**

- Contest scores are accumulative.
- Breakdown of all sub-score categories will be released.
- Overall placement and total scores will be posted within 24 hours of the competition.
- All scores are final and electronic to provide real-time results at Nationals.

### **3.19. Critique Session**

- The Judges Critique session is intended to be a constructive criticism session rather than a compliment session. The purpose is to improve each contestant's package for the National competition or another preliminary if they did not qualify.
- The Judge's Critique session is optional to the contestants. The promoter may provide a copy of the judges' worksheet with comment.
- In larger preliminaries, the promoter or judges may opt to only do critiques for the top 5 finalists. All contestants are eligible to attend a critique session with less than 5 contestants.
- It is mandatory that contestants not making the top 5 receive a copy of their Judges' Worksheets including comments.
- Critique sessions should last no longer than 5 to 7 minutes per contestant.
- Scores will not be made available during critique session.
- Each contestant will receive an individual critique session with the judges and not collectively with other contestants.
- Gay International reigning titleholders should attend and moderate the critique sessions including time for each contestant. He can also add to the critique but should not dominate the judge's time during the session.
- Judges may make themselves available for off-line discussion or critique at their discretion.

### **3.20. Crown, medallion, scepter and stole and Stole Standardization**

- Official preliminary promoters (on all contest levels) are required to use the Official crown, medallion, scepter and stole and stole designated for that particular level of contest.
- Under no circumstances should any other crown, medallion, scepter and stole, crown or sash/stole be used in a Gay International preliminary. Failure to use the proper crown, medallion, scepter and stole will result in the titleholders not being recognized as an official preliminary titleholders and competition entry at the next level will be denied.
- A city preliminary promoter may opt to recycle a Gay International System crown, medallion, scepter and stole. This should be coordinated with the state promoter and documented with the National/International office for crown, medallion, scepter and stole productions that year.
- Cost of the state or regional crown, medallion, scepter and stole is included in the GIO Standard. City crown, medallion, scepter and stoles can be purchased individually by the city promoter or included in their city franchise fee for the state promoter to purchase. Please contact the National/International office for pricing.
- All state or regional crown, medallion, scepter and stoles will be shipped once the franchise fee is paid in full.
- All crown, medallion, scepter and stole orders should be placed at time of contract signing and must be done at least forty-five (45) days before competition.

### **3.21. Double Crowning Contests**

Double crowning / awarding contests are strictly prohibited.

### **3.22. Eligibility (Contestant) Requirements**

- Photo ID should be verified at all contest levels.
- State and Regional residency requirements should be met and verified.
- Closed states require 90-day residency at the time of the state contest. Driver's license, lease agreement, billing statements, or utility bills may be used as proof.
- A contestant can qualify for a city contest as long as they are a resident for 90 days prior to the state or limited regional contest.
  - Contestants must be 21 years of age to compete at any contest level.
  - Contestant must be a citizen of the country they are representing or carry a Work Permit.
  - Promoters have the right to investigate the age or residency requirement as needed.
- Contestants must identify as a gay male and be recognized as such through government issued identification.
- Any Contestant found to be willfully untruthful about their criminal status will be permanently removed from eligibility within the system.
- A contestant who successfully completed felony probation, or whose criminal case is dismissed, will be eligible to enter. Verification of criminal status may be checked.
- A contestant who is currently in open criminal proceedings for a felony, currently on felony probation, or is currently in retribution for a crime, will be denied entry as a contestant into any preliminary of the Official Gay International Contest.
- Once a contestant has qualified for Gay International, including first alternate, they may not compete in another preliminary that year leading to another National competition. If a contestant has already qualified for a preliminary to another National competition, they will be allowed and expected to fulfill those obligations.
- Competing for regional and bar titles with no yearly obligations is allowed once a contestant



has qualified.

- Any contestant who has qualified or has intention to qualify, during the current contest season, to any city, state, or regional preliminary may not judge any preliminary that season. The exception is a former state titleholders may judge a city preliminary for the state contest in which he is a former titleholders.

### **3.23. Disqualification of Contestants**

- Violation(s) of any rules and regulations may disqualify the contestant from participation in the National Gay International contest.
- The National office reserves the right to disqualify contestants if their actions, or actions of their affiliates are deemed not in the best interest of the Gay International system.
- Any filed complaints will be documented and investigated by the National/ International Office with all appropriate parties.
- While every attempt is made to investigate claims against a contestant prior to taking action, if a credible source verifies a claim, especially during the national competition, a contestant may be disqualified or suspended immediately.
- The use of, dispensing, or selling of any illicit drug will not be tolerated while a contestant (or entertainer) is participating in any capacity with the Gay International system. Immediate disqualification is immanent for those found to be in violation; this includes anyone associated with the contestant (dresser, dancer, etc.).
- Contestants are responsible for the behavior of their associates. Non-compliance will result in disqualification or disciplinary action including point deductions. Any actions deemed disrespectful or demeaning to the Gay International system will lead to disqualification or being banned for a certain time up to indefinitely.

### **3.24. Emcee Book**

- The emcees of any officially sanctioned Gay International contest event should follow the rules and regulations as detailed within this handbook.
- Promoters should assemble an Emcee book to provide structure and flow to the event.
- The font should be larger than normal so the emcee can read it in the lighting.
- Use a 3-ring binder for ease of flipping pages.
  - Ensure there is proper lighting for the emcee without interfering with contest.
  - Provide a pen to mark changes and add personal emcee notes.
  - Keep the book organized by tabs.
  - Examples of the headings and labels
    - Contest Schedule
    - Judges Biographies
    - Presentation (include contestant questionnaires)
    - Formal Fashion
    - Talent
    - Sponsors
    - Additional info (if extended time is needed)
- Emcee should watch head judge for sign to continue competition during categories.
- Emcee should progress the contest as quickly as possible and be able to stall with entertainment when needed.
- Emcee should receive a copy of the regulations to ensure on and off-stage requirements.
- All awards and placements should be printed clearly for the emcee.

### **3.25. Orientation for Contestants and Judges**

- Promoters must provide a detailed registration (for contestants) and orientation to ensure the contestants and Judges are well informed of every detail concerning the contest.
- Gay International reigning titleholders must be in attendance for the contestant and judge orientation to assist in providing verbal detail to the contestants and judges. This generally includes personal testimony, elaboration on categories, proper scoring procedures, judge's etiquette and details of pertinent rules or contest specifics.
- Promoters should provide a written schedule, including any roll call requirements.
- Contestants are required to attend orientation at the advertised time, date, and place.
- Contestants who are late for orientation or scheduled "roll-calls" will receive administrative point deductions and will automatically become contestant number one (1).
- The "Lead Judge" should be identified during orientation.
- An Official Judges Book with score sheets, worksheets and other information, such as schedule, should be provided at the orientation.
- The orientations should be held separately although much information is similar.

### **3.26. Entertainers/Emcees/Former Preliminary Contest Titleholders**

- Promoters are encouraged to use their "family of formers" as special entertainment and emcees during their contests. This includes former Gay International title holders.
- A promoter may use other entertainers outside GIO with the following:
  - Inform the National/International Office of the entertainer before advertising them.
  - The entertainer must agree to the "Entertainer Regulations" as noted in this handbook.
- Appropriate entertainment for an GIO contest should be chosen in this order:
  - Current and former Titleholders of that particular contest
  - Gay International Titleholders
  - Top 10 Contestants of the most recent Gay International Contest if not competing in the contest
  - Current Titleholders of another contest system provided they are a former of that preliminary contest. Each should be announced as followed by this example:
    - Mr. Gay International (State/Region/Country).
  - Local entertainers or national entertainers while following line 2 of this section.
  - The National/International Office reserves the right to refuse certain entertainers from performing at any preliminary of the Gay International contest system.
  - Another system's paraphernalia should only be worn during a titleholders walk.
  - Crown songs should not be allowed during any Gay International competition.
  - Only the Gay International crown, medallion, scepter and stole should be on stage during award and crowning ceremonies. Exceptions are only made with permission of the National/International Office.
- Promoters should be in control of their contest at all times.
- The use of illegal drugs, excessive consumption of alcohol, or inappropriate language during the contest is prohibited at all times.

### **3.27. First Alternate Position**

- The contestant chosen as first alternate at all contest levels must be prepared to fulfill the duties of the titleholders, if for any reason the titleholders is unable to fulfill his duty.
- The first alternate does not have the right of refusal to be promoted to the titleholders position if

the opportunity occurs within zero (0) days to six (6) months from the date of that particular contest. After that period, the first alternate has the option to accept or deny without penalty.

- If the first alternate position titleholders is promoted the promoter should make every effort to make the coronation experience meaningful. This includes certain actions such as a dedicated coronation ceremony.
- If the first alternate is promoted to titleholders, at minimum the promoter is obligated to remit to the promoted individual any remaining cash prize that was deemed payable to the winner as listed in the promoter's handbook.
- Once the first alternate is promoted, he assumes all duties and responsibilities of the winner for that particular preliminary.

### **3.28. Franchise Fees – Agreements / Renewals / Revocations**

- All current preliminary promoters must renew preliminary contest agreements no later than December 31 of the current calendar year. Invoices will be sent out with contracts attached each year.
- If an updated and current Franchise Agreement is not received by December 31 of the current year, contest promoters are required to notify the National Office of their renewal intentions.
- Failure to renew or notify will revert sole ownership to Nu Tainment, LLC / GIO.
- All first-year contest owners must pay their franchise fee in full to secure date and agreement.
- Veteran promoters may pay 50% of their fee to secure their date on the calendar. The remaining 50% is due thirty days prior to scheduled contest.
- Should a promoter fail to renew a particular franchise, the National/International Office may name another promoter within that state or region.
- Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right, with or without cause, to renew or not to renew a franchise agreement. Should Nu Tainment, LLC/ GIO decide to cancel an agreement, they will notify the current promoter. A new promoter may be put in place of that franchise.
- Methods of payment for the contest fees are as follows: Credit Card, Money Order, Zelle and PayPal.
- Once the franchise fee is paid in full and Nu Tainment, LLC decides to revoke the franchise with cause, the fee will not be refunded.

### **3.29. Judging Panel**

- All preliminary contest promoters upon request should provide the names and qualifications of their judges to the national office.
- New preliminary contest promoters must utilize a current member of the national advisory board as their lead judge. This will be waived while the Gay International contests grows. If you choose not to use one from the advisory board, a Gay International titleholder should be used as lead judge. This includes state, regional or former Gay International titleholders.
- The national office, including Gay International, reserves the right to disqualify or dismiss any judge if they deem them not in the best interest of the Gay International contest system.
- Promoters are solely responsible for the behavior of their panel of judges.
- Promoters should avoid any potential conflict of interest that a judge may present.
- The promoter should ensure the judges are familiar with the rules and regulations of the Gay International system.
- Promoters should provide the judges an official judge's book that contains the following Category Descriptions:
  - Category Point Summary

- Score sheets and proper scoring procedures
- Contest schedule
- Judges regulations and other information

### **3.30. Honorary Titleholders**

- The act of appointing Honorary Titleholders is prohibited.
- If a Promoter desires to acknowledge the efforts of a certain individual, they are encouraged to establish a “specially named award” to recognize that individual.
- Promoters may not purchase a standardized crown/crown, medallion, scepter and stole for any person they choose to recognize. They are encouraged to use a certificate, trophy, or plaque as an award.

### **3.31. Multi-Day Contests**

- Unless otherwise approved, only closed-state contests are permitted to hold multi-day contest.
- Multi-Day contest may have no more than a “Top 10” during the final night.
- Multi-Day contest may have fewer finishing finalist competing but should not exceed more than half of the actual contestants. (Example: if you have 8 contestants you may only have a Top 4 finalist competition or a two-day contest with 10 contestants may only have a Top 5 finalist competition.) This is at the discretion of the promoter, Nu Tainment, LLC and the current titleholders collectively.
- Regional preliminary contests may only have one-day of competition, unless otherwise approved by the International office.
- All standard rules and regulations apply to both single and multi-day contest.
- All contests should follow the layout of the national contest for scoring consistency and to provide the contestant with what to expect at the national level.

### **3.32. Owners of Multiple Preliminaries/or Interests in Other Contests**

- In the event that more than one franchise is granted to a promoter, only one (1) vote will be counted for all concerns that are put to a vote.
- Any promoter who desires to promote a contest with another system should notify GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in writing. If conflicts arise from this choice, GIO /Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to revoke your GIO preliminary on grounds of conflict of interest.

### **3.33. On-Stage Question Procedures**

- All questions should be typed and placed in an envelope.
- Each contestant should be asked a different question.
- The on-stage question can be narrowed down to the top 5 finalists if you have a large group competing. This is at the discretion of the promoter and should be decided before registration.
- All questions should be typed and placed in an envelope.
- Each contestant should be asked a different question.
- The on-stage question can be narrowed down to the top 5 finalists if you have a large group competing. This is at the discretion of the promoter and should be decided before registration.

### **3.34. Promoter/Contest Reports**

- Promoters are required to submit a “Promoter’s Contest Report” within 10 days of the preliminary contest. Promoters should log into the Promoters Portal on the GIO website under forms.
- The reigning Gay International is required to submit a “Contest Report” within 10 days of the preliminary. This will help us know what is needed to assist promoters and future Gay International promoters be more successful.
- State and Regional Preliminaries may use a reporting tool to monitor their contests and preliminaries.

### **3.35. Gay International Titleholders Performing During A Preliminary**

- Gay International titleholders will perform no less than twice during a preliminary contest unless timing does not permit.
- Gay International holders are not required to perform more than two times but may do so at their discretion.
- Please remember Gay International titleholders have administrative responsibilities to perform during preliminaries.
- Gay International titleholders should be scheduled on the line-up where administrative responsibilities will not be hindered.
- Gay International titleholders should be introduced at the start of each contest (after opening and presentation)
- Gay International contests should end the evening with a crown number.

### **3.36. Prize Package for Preliminaries**

- All prizes are standardized under the GIO Standard. The winner will receive \$1000 and first alternate will receive \$500 both to be disbursed in increments. A promoter may offer more but may not be advertised in any official Gay International package.
- The GIO Standard covers hotel to the next level for preliminary winner and first alternate. Contestants are required to have valid credit card to cover hotel incidentals and parking.
- The GIO Standard covers airfare for preliminary winner and first alternate.
- Jewelry, sashes, scepters, or other prize offerings are not required, but the promoter has the option to add them.
- The winner will receive (depending on division) a crown, medallion, scepter and stole and the first alternate a stole both covered under the GIO Standard.
- All other award offerings not offered in the GIO Standard must be presented in writing to the contestants at registration.

### **3.37. Promoter and Promoter Responsibilities**

- Always be familiar with the current rules and guidelines of the Gay International contest defined by the National/International Office and this handbook.
- A promoter should help govern the rules and maintain a standard of excellence.
- Pay franchise fees in full before contest. Fees should be received within the terms of the contract, but no later than 3 days prior to your scheduled preliminary.
- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to refuse anyone from promoting a preliminary for any reason.

- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to terminate a promoter’s contract immediately for any of the following reasons:
  - Does not abide by the contest rules.
  - Misrepresents the contest negatively.
  - Has been proven to “fixing” a contest or manipulating scores.
  - Does not renew a contract in a timely manner.
  - Does not pay the franchise fees by required dates.
  - Transfers contest to another party with out written consent from Nu Tainment, LLC/GIO.
  - Causes damage to the system from reckless remarks or actions.

### **3.38. Promotional Photography Requirements**

- The winner and first alternate are required to provide a current promotional headshot for advertising purposes.
- All digital pictures should be at least 300 DPI and in JPG or PNG format.
- Head-shots pose should have at least one “face forward” and “eyes forward” photo.
- Head-shots are preferred on a solid background.
- We encourage contestants to be artistic but tasteful.
- Only Titleholders in the current contest year should be photographed with a crown, medallion, scepter and stole. If you're first alternate held a state or regional title in a previous year, they should not have a crown, medallion, scepter and stole on in their current head-shot.
- For the yearly program please request that no photo credits be placed on the images. You may advertise on your website or social media photo credits.

### **3.39. Revocation of a Titleholders and or First Alternate**

- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC reserves the right to review the actions of all City, State, and Regional Titleholders and first alternates.
- If actions are found to be detrimental or harmful to the Gay International Contest system, sanctions may be applied.
- Any titleholders or first alternate of any level will be required to pay back all prize money and return any physical prizes to the promoter or national office if a title is revoked.
- Protocol for revocation:
- Promoters should gather as much information and document the situation leading to the revocation.
- All parties involved will be able to speak to the allegations of their vocation.
- The national/international office including Nu Tainment, LLC and Gay International reigning titleholder will adjudicate the revocation request.
- The decision will be sent via email and a phone call to the promoter to document the situation.
- A time limit of 10 calendar days will be allowed for the purpose of appealing the revocation decision.
- Once a decision of the appeal has been made it will be final.
- Reasons for revocation include but are not limited to:
  - Using or dispensing illegal drugs.
  - Intoxicated while representing their respective title.
  - Absent from officially sanctioned contest events.
  - Not present for coronation and photos after a preliminary in which they competed.

### **3.40. Scoring Procedures and Tabulation**

Preliminary promoters MUST use the scoring system provided by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC. No exceptions. Options include:

- Paper format
- Electronic format (lap top or tablet)
- A paper backup should be ready in the event of a failure in an electronic version.
- All score sheets must be made available to Gay International reigning titleholders for verification and signature.
- Only the Master Scores can be released to contestants after the contest.
- The promoter should assign a trustworthy person to tabulate the scores. Gay International titleholders at state and regional contests are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the scores. If less than 6 months remaining, the next alternate in line will move up to replace the person
- Judging will be based on a total point accumulated system; the contest scoring will be done on a cumulative basis.

### **3.41. State Contests**

Promoters of Closed-State contests should ensure that the state titleholders are prepared to administrate at the City Preliminary contests. This includes:

- Being familiar with the rules including emcee and entertainment guidelines.
- Being able to hold an orientation to brief contestants and judges on the State contest.
- Residency requirements should be met for closed state contests. There are no exceptions

### **3.42. Suspension of Privilege to Compete**

- Suspensions and bans in the Gay International contest system are followed at all city, state, regional, and national levels.
- GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC can over-ride or lift a suspension.
- If the contestant is suspended or banned at a city, state, or regional level , GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC will consult with the promoter and people involved to why the ban was issued before lifting it.
- Justification for suspension of privilege to compete and the length of time includes but not limited to:
  - Qualified contestant resigns or fails to compete at the next level of competition. 3-year suspension.
  - Failure to appear on stage for the coronation ceremony of a particular contest. 2-year suspension.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct. 3-year suspension
  - Contestants suspended 3 times may be permanently banned from competing in the future.
- If a contestant is banned after qualifying all prize money and physical prizes must be returned to the promoter who awarded them within 30 days.
- Gay International contest system will respect any ban from other contest systems when aware of the ban. Such suspensions will carry forward to the Gay International contest system unless otherwise approved by the National/International Office.

### **3.43. Tie Score**

- In the event of a tie for finalists or winning court, the score of the “Interview” will break the tie. In the event the tied contestants have the same score in “Interview” all contestants will re-compete in the “On Stage Question”. This can be the same question for all contestants. If using the same question, remove the contestants not answering the question at the time so that each contestant’s answer is uniquely theirs.
- There must be a numerical succession for the court. Winner, First, Second, Third, Fourth. Any tie that happens within that ranking needs to be broken whether it is between the winner and first or Third and Fourth.
- In the event the 11th and 10th contestant are tied for the 10th position of the top 10, the score from “Interview” will be used to break the tie. If that score is the same the score from “Talent” will be used.
- The International/National office should be made aware of any ties and the results.

### **3.44. Time Management and Category Times for Competition**

- Promoters are responsible to ensure the contest flows in an efficient manner.
- Book the appropriate amount of entertainment.
- Consult with venue on times to make sure you can finish before having to vacate the venue due to local laws.
- Interview should not exceed 7 minutes in time for each contestant. Gay International reigning titleholders will watch time and give a 1 minute warning to conclude the interview.
- Prop setup for talent should not exceed 3 minutes per contestant.
- Talent category should not exceed 7 minutes per contestant. Promoters should check recorded track time for compliance.
- Critique sessions are recommended to be approximately 5 to 7 minutes per contestant.
- Time violations during competition will result in administrative point deductions.

### **3.45. Year of the Titleholders**

- City, State, National and Regional Titleholders will be dated for that year of the title they are competing for. Example: if you have a preliminary to Gay International 2023, all City, State Country and Regional Titleholders will be titled 2023.

### **3.46. Gay International Category Descriptions**

#### **PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

- General Appearance
- Personality
- Ability to Communicate
- Answer Content

Personal Interview will be judged during the National/International and preliminary competitions and carried over to top 10 scores on final night. The purpose of Interview is to place the contestant in a situation of answering different types of questions and judging how he will react to adversity. The context of the answer is important but more important is how the contestant conveys that answer. Eye contact with all the judges is important not just to the judge who has asked the question. The contestant



should answer the judges' questions and not get involved with the opinion of the judge. The contestant is judged on the presentation of thoughts. The contestant should look comfortable in properly fitted professional attire. Trendy outfits must still convey appropriate professional environment during this category. The contestant will be trying to impress and appeal to different types of judges. The interview category should last no longer than seven (7) minutes. An alert will be given one (1) minute prior to the time limit.

## PRESENTATION

- Originality and creativeness
- Costume Suitability
- Fit Execution
- Entertainment Value

Presentation will be judged during the National/ International preliminary competitions and carried over to top 10 scores on final night. The costume should be in theme with what the GIO chooses for that year's contest. Gay International titleholders will communicate that theme to the judges about what was communicated to the contestants for that year. Costumes that are made or made to be original will score higher in originality and creativeness. The costume must be worn so that the contestant can walk on the stage without assistance. Presentation costume may not have wheels or supports that rest on the stage; but items such as hoover boards, roller skates, stilts, etc. can be used for mobilization. Costumes may have lights or motorized parts but must be battery operated. No power or extension cords should be required to power costume components. Contestants shall not speak during Presentation but can use a video and voice overs in the music to portray theme. It is imperative that modeling be the emphasis of Presentation. It is not a "mini-talent" and lip-sync is discouraged. The Presentation category should last no longer than two (2) minutes.

## FORMAL FASHION

- Suitability of garment
- Presentation
- General Appearance

Formal Fashion will be judged during the National/International preliminary competitions and category rejudged for top 10 on Contest final night. Contestants are encouraged to pick formal fashion that suits their body type and personality style during a red carpet, gala, or other fashion event. The overall look of the garment and presentation of the garment and the presentation should be current or classic and stylish. The apparel should complement the contestant's figure. It should be a statement of the style and taste. The apparel and accessories should be in perfect condition. Jackets and vests should be lined appropriately, unless designed otherwise. The judges should not be able to see through any parts of the garment unless that is the intended style. Accessories should not be overpowering. Shoes should match or compliment the garment and should not be scuffed or worn at the toe or heel; the exception is if the design of the shoe is meant to be distressed. Modeling should be at an easy pace, touching the 3 points on the stage to form a triangle. At each point of the triangle, contestants will make a full turn to show the judges all sides of their garments. Free style modeling will follow the triangle but should remain classy. The modeling technique will be demonstrated by the reigning Gay International titleholder. Contestants will model Formal Fashion for a minimum of one and a half (1.5) minutes and no longer than two (2) minutes.

## ON-STAGE INTERVIEW

- Ability to communicate
- Answer content

On-Stage Interview will be judged final night only for top 5. It will take place immediately after the announcement of top 5. Scoring should be based on personality and poise, the ability to communicate on a microphone in front of an audience, and the context of the answer in relation to the topic given. Once the contestant is approached by the emcee, the contestant will be asked to select a question. This is the time for the finalist to compose themselves for the question and personally address the crowd. The emcee shall ask the finalist the question they selected a total of two times. The finalist will then answer the question. The finalist will not be judged until they speak their first word. The finalist is allowed to think about the question before answering. It is strongly recommended the finalist answer the question in English. If this is not possible, the finalist must inform GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC prior to the start of orientation on the first day at National/International and provide an interpreter approved by the GIO/National office.

## TALENT

- Showmanship
- Design and Overall Look
- Choreography and Stage Presence including dancers Quality of Lip-sync, live vocal, dance, spoken word, etc.
- Entertainment Value
- Originality and Creativeness

Talent will be judged during the National/International preliminary competition and category rejudged for top 10 on final night of nationals/international. Contestants will be judged on their quality of lip-sync, live vocal, or other entertainment methods. Judges will be judging the contestant's knowledge of the words to their song and how it is executed. Just knowing the words is not enough. The contestant should also look as if they are actually singing the song if lip-syncing. If it is a live performance, is the talent of good quality? If there is choreography, the dancers should know the steps and the steps should flow. The contestant should not attempt to do something that is beyond their talent. If dancers or actors are used in the presentation, they should not upstage the contestant. The contestant is responsible for the performance of others. If a member of the dance troop does not know their dance, points will be deducted from the score. Quality of set design and construction will be judged. Do not put something on the stage that is not going to be used or does not have relation to the talent. Contestants are responsible for their sets. If it falls apart or collapses on stage, points will be deducted from the score. Costuming and set design should reflect the mood one is trying to establish. Always examine your presentation for entertainment value. Does it please, cause laughter, sadness or stir some other emotion? One does not need to have a huge production to be successful. Remember everything on the stage is a reflection of the contestant's score. Talent presentations will be limited to seven (7) minutes with reasonable artistic accommodation of less than a minute. No score will be given in the talent category for any presentation over eight (8) minutes in length. Talent presentation music/video must be on a Flash Drive and must be the only item on the Flash Drive. The following must be either written (with permanent marker) on the Flash Drive.

Talent: Contestant Number – Contestant Name – Name of Song/Mix

Prop set-up time will be limited to three (3) minutes. Prop set-up time is not included in the seven (7) minute limit contestants are allowed for talent competition. Two (2) points will be deducted from the

administrative score if prop set- up is over three (3) minutes. Pyrotechnics are not allowed. No fire (including, but not limited to, a lit cigarette), liquids (including, but not limited to, water) or live animals are not allowed unless approved by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC in writing. The request must be made in writing thirty (30) days prior to the first date of competition. Any request after this time will be denied automatically. Contestants will receive a zero (0) for violation of this regulation. If a contestant is selected as a Top 10 finalist, he has the option to alter his final night talent for a technical administrative fee.

### **3.47. Judges Worksheet**

Published separately

### **3.48. Judges Comment Sheet**

Published separately

### **3.49. Score Sheet Instructions/Score Sheet Manual Tabulation Instructions**

The standardized score sheets will be provided to promoters only, in electronic format and by the National/International Office of the Gay International contest. There are no other score sheets allowed. The score sheets are in Microsoft Excel format and the recipient must receive the “password” in order to download the score sheets. Promoters may use an approved and tested tabulation program, provided the format mirrors the process noted within these score sheet instructions. The Gay International National Office has available a tabulation program that may assist larger preliminary contests with the scoring tabulation. This is given by request only. Gay International shall remain too ensure that the tabulation process mirrors the notes in the Score Sheet instructions. The following are general instructions, to completing the score sheets.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Once the Judge has completed the Judges Worksheet (with scores including sub- category, total scores and comment), the scores that are noted on the Judges Worksheet, should then be transferred to the Score Sheet. That is, the scores noted on the score sheet should mirror those noted on the Judges Worksheet. The Judges Worksheet Comments should also be completed in detail, so as to provide the contestant with a constructive critique session. (It should be noted that the Judges Worksheet, is subject to review at any time by the Promoter, Gay International, Nu Tainment LLC, or any other person designated, by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, to serve in official capacity of the Gay International contest system).

- Make sure all corrections have been initialed by the Lead Judge and the Judge who initiated the error.
- Carefully review the score sheets for biased scores...(example: one judge is scoring a particular contestant very high while the others are scoring a particular contestant low...or vice versa). If one judge is scoring far off base, when compared to the scores of others, they must be able to justify their scores. If they are unable to justify their scoring, consideration should be made as to not using the particular judge’s scores, in the total accumulative score and removal of that judge, from the panel. (It is recognized that one particular judge may, in general, score a “great” category presentation very high, while another particular judge may, in general, score a “great” category presentation low, however, if that particular contestant category presentation is “great”, then most likely said presentation will usually be among the highest scores for both judges... and vise versa)

- Review the scores to be sure that the entire panel is scoring appropriately (this can be validated by either the promoter or the reigning Gay International observing the contest, then comparing the observation to the actual scores posted)
- If there is question, concerning the score that was posted to the score sheet, you should refer to the Judges Worksheet and the Judges Worksheet Comments, as the scores noted on the Judges Worksheet should mirror those scores noted on the Score Sheet and the Judges Worksheet Comments should support the score.
- Be certain that the Tabulator has signed each score sheet.
- Make sure that the reigning Gay International, has signed as the “Second Party Score Verifier”.
- Inform the judges, as a group of certain issues that need to be remedied, in order to realize a smooth contest, however specific issues should be addressed with a particular judge, in the presence of promoter, Lead Judge or other official representative of Nu Tainment LLC.
- The tabulation process should immediately begin after each category has concluded. In the event that contestants are divided into groups, then the tabulation process should immediately begin after a particular group has concluded a category.
- In the event that there are more than 6 contestants, promoters are strongly encouraged to have two score sheets for each category, each containing one half of the contestant numbers. Then, when one half of the contestants have completed the category competition, the score sheets should be collected and the tabulation process should immediately begin.
- At the request of the Promoters to GIO/Nu Tainment LLC, the official version of the Score Sheet Automated Tabulation program can be utilized, rather than the manual score sheet tabulation. It should be noted however, that all of the above helpful hints and instructions should be followed to ensure there are no tabulation errors.

### **3.50. Help List for Gay International Contest Promoters**

#### **BEFORE THE PAGEANT**

- Budget preparedness?
- Does budget project a positive cash flow? Your budget should include but not limited to:
  - Contest franchise fee
  - Advertising
  - Venue
  - Entertainment expenses
  - Prize package
- If the current budget does not include a positive cash flow projection, when do you anticipate the break even point?
- When do you anticipate realizing a positive cash flow? Franchise Agreement sent to the National Office?
- Franchise Agreement Paid?
- Accepted by the National promoters
- Signed by both parties?
- Franchise Fee paid to the National Office?
- If not, have satisfactory payment arrangements been approved by the national/international office (Promoters from prior year must pay the franchise fee in full, within 30 days prior to contest or June 1st...whichever is first)
- Date of the preliminary set?
- Has this been approved by the national/international office?

- Has this been communicated to the reigning Gay International titleholders?
- Has this been cleared by your reigning titleholders (if applicable)?
- Has the date been posted to the GIO website?
- Have you received a copy of the current version of the Handbook?
- Have you read the handbook?

### Advertisement

- Do you and your staff have a clear understanding of the regulations?
- If you are a closed state contest, have you provided your city preliminary promoters with a Franchise Agreement and Promoters Handbook, specific to your contest?
- Have you made decision as to what forms of advertisement to use?
- Posters?
- Fliers?
- Website or use of the complimentary Gay International website/web page?
- Mass email?
- Social Media?
- Radio or television advertisement?
- Word of mouth at various shows and other contests? Entertainers and formers booked?
- Be certain to use the entertainers detailed in the handbook
- Has national office approved any entertainment exception requests?
- Have all entertainers been reminded of the Entertainer Requirements detailed in the Promoters Handbook?
- Organize your contest agenda?
- Clock the presentation, entertainment and coronation/awards ceremony to ensure a reasonable time length of your contest. Please keep in mind that most promoters wish to cancel performance numbers at the end of the contest, however, this is the most crucial to complete score tabulation and to allow Gay International to prepare for the crown song, therefore, promoters are encouraged to greatly limit performance numbers at the beginning the contest, rather than to cancel performances near the end of the contest.
- Who will distribute awards?
- Who will emcee?
- Who will entertain?
- How many performances?
- Have entertainers been advised if you wish to prohibit ballads, other than your reigning titleholders and the reigning Gay International, being allowed to perform a ballad?
- Have you reviewed the suggested schedule, located in the Promoters Handbook, to ensure that the Gay International will have ample time to finish score sheet validation and prepare for the “crown song”?
- Is there a Registration deadline advertised? (the registration deadline should be reasonable to in case, shall the registration deadline be greater than 10 days prior to the contest)
- Select and orientate judges
- Diversify your selection of judges
- Provide category descriptions, sub-category and scoring procedures far in advance of the contest
- Be certain that judges understand appropriate etiquette and other judges information, including but not limited to appropriate attire and behavior, as detailed in the Promoters Handbook
- Select alternate judges for last minute cancellations

- Be certain that judges understand critique purpose and procedure
- Be certain that judges are informed of expectations of them during their service to your contest
- Report the listing of judges to the national office in advance of your contest
- Has someone been selected to serve as a Judges liaison to ensure the judges needs are met?
- At your contest, provide the judges with a “Judges Book” which should include:
  - Score-sheets(both preliminary and Top10, if applicable)
  - Judges Worksheet
  - Category descriptions
  - Judges information
  - Contest schedule
  - Appropriate scoring correction procedures
- Prepare the contestant application package to include:
- Hard copy of the application which should be available upon request as you should encourage state/regional contestants to use the electronic version of the application. (You are required to use the application that is in the handbook whereby all you need to do is to customize to your contest)
  - Host hotel information
  - Location of the contest
  - Stage dimensions (diagram of the stage if possible)
  - Schedule of the contest with roll-call time and location
  - Categories for competition
  - Category descriptions and scoring of sub-categories
  - Prize package information
  - Theme of the contest and presentation requirements
  - Wear same outfit as red carpet attire for the coronation ceremony?
  - Contract for the winner, and first alternate, if required, or at least expectation of the winner and first alternate during their reign (the requirements noted in the contract should not exceed those noted in the Gay International Job Description Summary, unless otherwise approved by GIO/Nu Tainment LLC)
  - Dressing Room Policy
  - Contestant Release Form
  - When entry fee is due and how to pay the entry fee (cash, money order etc)
  - Are you having a Photogenic contest? If so, have contestants been notified of rules?
  - How do you plan to validate eligibility to enter?
  - Has all of the required information, as noted on your complimentary web page, of the [www.gayinternational.org](http://www.gayinternational.org) website been provided to the national office? (should be provided not later than 30 days prior to the contest)
  - Will you have a souvenir program?
- Prepare budget based on program size, style and quantity
- Obtain price quote to create and print the souvenir program
- Gather photos you want in the program to avoid last minute printer deadline pressure
- Sell ads according to budget
- Selling the souvenir programs or will they be complimentary?
- Plaques, trophies, crowns and certificates
- Order these items well in advance of the contest to ensure no last minute errors
- Make certain the crown is received from the GIO/National/International office
- Certificates can be completed all but the name of the recipient of each award
- Need a choreographer for presentation?
- Have all of the contestants, formers and others participating in your “on-stage production” been

- informed of apparel requirements?
- Have you checked the Suspended Contestant Registry [http://www.gayinternational.org/suspended-affiliate- registry.html](http://www.gayinternational.org/suspended-affiliate-registry.html) (please cut and paste this link into your web browser) that is available through the national office, for those who CANNOT enter your, or serve in any capacity to your contest?
- Will you have an official photographer? Are the on-stage questions prepared? Do you have “tie-breaker” Stage Interview questions prepared?
- Who will be assigned to make certain competition music is within guidelines (one track per CD submitted, 3 minute Presentation limit, 7 minute Talent limit)?
- Who will supervise back-stage activity? Who will serve as an Entertainer liaison?
- Are back-stage (contestants, dancers etc) passes prepared? Are Media passes prepared?
- Are Staff passes prepared?
- Who will supervise contestant dressing rooms? Who will supervise entertainers dressing rooms?
- Is there an “on-stage” broom available to clean the “drag droppings” from the stage? Is someone assigned to randomly clean the stage? Are emcees reminded to watch the stage for “needed clean-up?”
- Who will maintain time of prop set-up and take down for talent?
- Who will assist the contestants and entertainers, with entry and exit regarding the stage (if there are steps...)
- Who is maintaining the master notation of administrative point deductions, including those administrative point deductions for final night competition?
- Who will time the categories such as: Formal Fashion, Talent, and Prop set-up for talent.etc?
- Have you arranged for contestant on-stage talent rehearsal time with location of contest? Establish who will tabulate scores
- Make certain the tabulator meets with the reigning Gay International in advance of the contest to establish when scores will be tabulated
- Have you advertised all contest information including but not limited to:
  - Registration deadline
  - Entry fee (also an “early bird” entry fee?)
  - Theme of contest including presentation requirements
  - Categories of competition
- Has transportation arrangements for Gay International been planned and assigned? Who is responsible to monitor roll-call time?
- Have you provided all of the required information, as noted on your contest web page of the [www.gayinternational.org](http://www.gayinternational.org) website, including prize package? Remember, your contest cannot occur, until all required information has been provided to Nu Tainment LLC.

#### For Closed-State Contest Promoters

- Have you provided a copy of the Handbook to you City/Metropolitan preliminary promoters? (remember that the city/metropolitan preliminaries MUST mirror the regulations of the State contest). The City/Metropolitan Preliminary Handbook can be altered to reflect the name of the State contest, but there shall be no other regulation changes without receiving permission from the national office)
- Have you executed a Franchise Agreement with you City/Metropolitan preliminary promoters? (remember that the city/metropolitan preliminaries MUST mirror the regulations of the State contest. The Franchise Agreement can be altered to reflect the name of the State contest, but there shall be no other regulation changes without receiving permission from the national

office)

### The Panel of Judges

- If you are a new promoter to the system, you are required to use at least one Gay International Advisory Board Member as the Lead Judge. Please consider if you have made this selection in advance and cleared the date with the Advisory Board member of your choice?
- Have the Judges been trained well in advance of the contest?
- Has a time for Judges Orientation been scheduled? Be certain that Gay International and your reigning titleholders is present for Judges Orientation.
- Has someone been assigned duty of judges liaison? A judge liaison should be certain the judges have everything they need including beverages (no alcoholic beverages whatsoever), ample lighting.
- Who will collect the judges score sheets and provide to the tabulator?
- Has a lead judge been designated? Does the lead judge know his responsibilities? The lead judge should be the most experienced and very well versed on judging in the America system.
- How will you conduct the Interview (example: will the judges randomly ask questions or will the questions be asked from the judges, in seating arrangement order?)
- Have the judges been advised (far in advance of the date of the contest) of:
  - Category descriptions, Proper Scoring Procedures
  - Schedule of contest events
  - Judges etiquette and other information(including appropriate apparel)
  - Are alternate judges selected to avoid “last minute” stress”?
  - Are you prepared to discuss in detail, appropriate critique procedures.... (i.e. critique session should not be just a “praise session” to contestants, it should be constructive to inform as to why contestants did not score higher and should also be used as preparation for the national competition)
  - Have you selected 5 judges for a state/regional OR 3 judges for a city preliminary?
  - How will you conduct critique (example: one judge will cover one category and the remaining judges will “add to” comments not “repeat” them)
  - Who is assigned responsibility to monitor behavior of the judges, to ensure compliance with appropriate etiquette of the judges?

### Registration

- Establish procedure for contestants to “draw contestant numbers”. For closed-state contests, you will want to provide a “back-up plan or a fill in the gap” in case all qualified contestants do not register.
- Establish who will primarily conduct the Judges Orientation and be certain that the reigning Gay International titleholder is present to speak with the judges (your option is to have the reigning Gay International titleholder conduct the judges orientation)
- Establish who will primarily conduct the Contestant Orientation/Registration and be certain that the reigning Gay International titleholder is present to speak with the contestants (your option is to have the reigning Gay International titleholder conduct the contestant orientation)
- Will you provide refreshments at registration?
- Have you organized the days events, to include talent rehearsal



### Let the contest begin.

- Make every effort to begin on-time
- Monitor dressing rooms
- Monitor contestant and entertainers behavior
- Monitor judges behavior
- Make certain that the reigning Gay International titleholder is aware of potential problems
- Be helpful to the reigning Gay International titleholder to ensure they can visit with contestants, audience members and watch the contest (beside the judges)
- Be sure that the reigning Gay International titleholder has plenty of time to verify scores and to perform
- Make every decision based on what is in the best interest of your contest and the Gay International system. Advise Gay International titleholder about every pertinent decision to ensure they can assist in keeping a smooth contest
- Establish who will present awards during the coronation/award ceremony
- Announce location of critique (also procedure and etiquette).
- Reiterate to the judges, the importance of an effective critique....(provide do's and don't for critique)
- Constantly check on contestants, judges and entertainers to be certain all reasonable needs are met
- Who will post several copies (or provide a copy to each contestant) of the Master score sheet, for contestant review
- Has the schedule been reviewed whereby Gay International will have ample time to prepare for his performances AND validate the scores

### At the conclusion of the contest

- Post Master Score Sheets in the contestant dressing room OR provide each contestant with a copy of the Master Score Sheet
- After the contest:
  - Post the Administrative Point Deduction Summary beside the Master Score Sheet (in the contestant dressing room)
  - Remind contestants of the location of the critiques
  - Has someone been assigned to monitor the flow of critiques including timing to ensure that the 10 minute limit is not exceeded
  - Prepare the Promoters Contest Report within 10 days of your contest
  - Thank you notes to contestants? Judges? Entertainers?
  - Make photos of the winner and alternate for your contest and be certain that the national office has current photos of your winner and alternate, to note on the website
  - Console contestants as you hope they will return to your contest next year should they not qualify for and win the national contest
  - Make judges available to the contestants for further critique if needed
  - Prepare BOTH your winner and first alternate for the nationals. Provide advice and if you feel as if you need third party advice, make every effort to assist (your reputation as a promoter is crucial to the future success of your contest)
  - Call your contestants weekly to see if you can help them in anyway, answer questions etc.
  - Send cards/notes to them to motivate them for competition at the international/nationals to let them know how proud you are to have them as representative of your contest
  - Attend the national competition and assist them in any way possible, as they need much

- more help than just financial help
- Immediately ask contestants to provide you with promotional photos for your ad in the national souvenir program. Ask for at least two photos, one for your ad in the next level program and one for the contestant gallery of the next program. (Remember that photos of your 1st alternate cannot be in a crown so you may have to “airbrush” a crown photo, if that is all you can obtain)
- Prepare your ad for the next level program and submit to the appropriate office, within the guidelines set by the international office
- Immediately notify the international office of any problems or potential problems
- Be sure that the Host Hotel accommodations for your contestant are secured
- Be sure that your contestants received all of the information that has been communicated by the national office
- Let your representatives know how proud you are of them
- Should your representative not win the national title, then critique their national competition and encourage them to return to competition

### After the National/Internationals

- Keep in contact with your 1st alternate as well (should they not win the national competition, they may return to your contest and will also prove to be a very strong referral source for future competitors)
- Get ready for the next year of competition of your preliminary contest

### **3.51. Dressing Room Policies**

All contestants and their assistants, and promoters must adhere to these policies. Violations of these policies will result in Administrative Violation Point (AVP) deduction sanctioned against a contestant and/or termination of competition. Contestants are responsible for the actions, conduct, and the consequences of those actions and conduct of their helpers, assistants, dancers, actors, etc.. Any variations from the standard Dressing Room Policy should be clearly communicated with the contestants at the time of registration.

- Smoking will not be allowed in dressing rooms.
- Only one (1) assistant per contestant will be allowed in the dressing room(s) at any time, unless uniformly approved by the promoter.
- One (1) pass will be given to each contestant which must not be transferred unless approved by GIO/Nu Tainment, LLC.
- If a pass is lost, a new one may be purchased for \$30.00. Until the new pass is issued, the contestant assistants will not be allowed to be in the dressing room(s). Only one pass per contestant will be allowed to be in use at any time. Revocation of all dressing room privileges will be the penalty given to any contestant whose assistants are found to be using more than one (1) pass at any time.
- All persons without a pass will be removed from the location of the contest should they attempt to enter the dressing room(s).
- No beverages of any kind (including water) are allowed in the dressing rooms at any time.
- Dancers in Talent Presentations will not be allowed in the dressing room(s) until two (2) contestants before them..(example: contestant #6 is performing then contestants #8 dancers will be allowed into the dressing room(s), unless otherwise uniformly approved by the promoter.
- As soon as your talent is completed, dancers will vacate the dressing room immediately.

- During the course of the contest, there will be many people at any given time in the dressing room(s). For this reason there will be one person in charge of each dressing room. This individual will have the ultimate decision as to whom is allowed to enter the dressing room. The dressing room monitor will be allowed to escort any individual out of the dressing room at their discretion.
- Contestants/Entertainers may bring their own mirrors; although stations will have at least one mirror available.

### **3.52. Gay International Preliminary Schedule Recommendation**

In an effort to realize greater efficiency within preliminary competition, below is a sample schedule for preliminary contests. This recommended schedule allows ample time for contestants to prepare for each category, and should also afford the reigning Gay International, with sufficient time to perform all of his required duties. The schedule can also serve as the Performance List to provide to the Sound Technician staff and will serve as a cross reference verification of all properly labeled Performance Music.

- Opening by reigning National or Preliminary Titleholders Parade of Formers and/or Special Guests
- Parade of Contestants
- Entertainment of Emcee
- Special Entertainment
- Entertainment of National Titleholders
- Special Entertainment
- Formal Fashion
- On-Stage Question and Answer Competition
- Special Entertainment
- Special Entertainment
- Special Entertainment
- Talent Competition
- Special Awards and Acknowledgments
- Special Entertainment
- Entertainment of National Titleholders Entertainment of Preliminary Titleholders
- Category Awards
- Crowning Ceremony

### **3.53. Contestant Registration Orientation Agenda**

- Roll call
- Announce speakers (reigning titleholders, national titleholders, promoter)
- Introduction of staff (usually wearing staff badges)
- Review the Contestant Release Form (including role of 1st alternate)
- Contracts for winner and first alternate
- Contestant numbers (draw number and give time to exchange, if needed)
- Hotel and Staff courtesy
- Parking Accommodations
- Category descriptions
- Presentation winner (who will vote on the winner)
- Dancers-Performer Release form will be signed after Registration or prior to your talent

number....

- Go to Promoters or backstage liaison for problems
- Must have badges/passes to get into the club
- What time can contestants enter dressing room
- Dresser must have Backstage Pass
- Dancers and dresser must pay admission
- Introduction of the Judges
- General Roll Call (please distribute applications back and to write number on)
- Prop Load In time and procedures
- Contestants number drawing (contestant writes number on application)
- If required, do not leave the stage area for competition (also for entertainers)
- We will take intermission if needed, otherwise we still move quickly through the competition.
- Please communicate any needs with the contest director, promoter or Gay International
- Dressing room policy (no drinking or smoking back stage)
- Tour of Dressing Rooms and facility (clearly marked doors)...
- Badges/passes for all? Dressers must have then.... (Promoters, Entertainers are the only people allowed backstage without a "Backstage Pass")
- Location of Interview and Interview category description
- Review Interview category
- Review Formal fashion category
- Review Presentation category (no fire or liquids)
- Review Talent category (no fire or liquids)...
- Review On-stage question (this will also be a tie breaker question)
- Administrative Point Deductions (5 points per infraction)
- After the contest (on final night)
  - Critiques in contestant number order
  - 7 minutes only session
  - Score sheets will be posted in the dressing room(Master)
- Location of critique/Appropriate behavior during critique
- Wear same outfit or equivalent as formal fashion competition for crowning?
- Must be present for coronation
- Contest schedule including roll call time (any changes? communicated with all contestants?)
- Has your music been submitted?

### **3.54. Gay International Judges Orientation Agenda**

- Introductions of all judges
- Brief speech by reigning titleholders and Promoter
- Wear badges at all times to let contestants know they should keep their distance from you
- Identification of the Lead Judge
- Judges Etiquette
- What are we looking for in a Gay International
- Category descriptions: Male Interview/ Red Carpet Fashion / On Stage Question / Talent
- Judges Worksheet
- Score sheets
- Proper Scoring Procedures Score sheets
  - Use block style numbers
  - Total scores if you wish, but add correctly
  - Do not round, unless you feel the need...score exactly as you think

- Develop your own technique of scoring but score each contestant consistently (example deduct one point for missing beads but do it consistently)
- Score contestant #1 the exact same as the final contestant...
- When completed fold the sheets in half and promoter or other designee only will collect... unless you are otherwise instructed
- Work sheets cores must parallel with the score noted on the Score Sheet
- Correction procedures
- Review Entertainer Regulations (to emphasize what is expected of Titleholders in the system)
- Do not let any detail go unpenalized
- Do not “look down” to make notes DURING Talent
- Do not let emcees rush you but you should have plenty of time to judge
- Emcees are told to watch the Lead Judge so you should inform the Lead Judge if you are having any problems. The Lead Judge will raise hand to indicate they are ready.
- Judges critiques
  - Use Judges Comment Sheets
  - All of your scores will determine the winner, not just one
  - Critique session must be limited to 7 minutes per contestant (there will be no exceptions). Contestants who are not in line, at the appropriate time will forfeit their critique privilege.
  - At the critique session on final night one judge will lead each category... other judges will add to it (only if something different)
  - The National/International office will defend the judge’s scores but you must remain unified in the overall rankings as this is an accumulative scoring system
  - No matter how many times you have seen a particular formal wear, talent, or contestant, you are to judge what you see in front of you
  - Do not discuss your scoring after the contest with anyone, including other judges... Many have been offended at discussion from other judges concerning comments made after critique
  - Be accessible to the contestants after the contest for further critique
  - Arrive at the location of the contest at what time?
  - You may attend the Revue Show, if applicable, but remember appropriate Etiquette
  - Cellular phones must be turned off, during all phases of competition

### **3.55. Gay International Quick Reference**

As the primary purpose of this Promoters Handbook is to assist the Promoter and reigning Gay International titleholders in having an overall satisfactory contest experience, GIO/Nu Tainment LLC wishes to make readily available, such information that can be instrumental in the realization of a successful contest.

Questions about anything in this handbook may be directed to our office.  
 Email: [office@gayinternational.org](mailto:office@gayinternational.org)

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